

## You and The Chesapeake Bay: Farmers Do Their Part Keeping the Bay Blue



*Photo by Wayne Gilchrest*

### **FARMERS DO THEIR PART - Fact or Fiction**

- **Farmers apply as much fertilizer as they want to. - Fiction**
- **99.9% of Maryland Farmers are in compliance with the Nutrient Management Law. - Fact**
- **There are 5,828 Nutrient Vouchers issued in the State which is a mandatory requirement for those applying nutrients on over 10 acres. - Fact**
- **Farmers are required to follow nutrient management recommendations, keep nutrient application records and submit annual reports on the amount of nutrients applied. - Fact**

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# Agricultural Nutrient Management

~ 2010 Nutrient Management Annual Report for the University of Maryland

University of Maryland Extension's (UME) Agricultural Nutrient Management Program, which is funded by Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) focuses on reducing nonpoint source nutrient pollution to the Chesapeake Bay from plant nutrients applied to cropland. The Program provides (1) nutrient management planning services to Maryland farmers through a network of Nutrient Management Advisors located in all county Extension offices and (2) continuing education and technical support to certified Nutrient Management Advisors and certified farm operators via state and regional nutrient management specialists. For more information on the agricultural nutrient management program, visit [www.anmp.umd.edu](http://www.anmp.umd.edu).

## **Priorities:**

Nutrient management planning priorities for the agricultural nutrient management program are stated each year in a formal agreement between MDA and the University of Maryland. They change based on current issues. The priorities for Fiscal Year 2010 were as follows:

1. Farmers with pollution problems or referred as non-compliant by MDA through an enforcement procedure;
2. Farmers participating in the Manure Transport Project and those with a Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program application pending for animal waste storage or a poultry mortality composter;
3. Updating nutrient management plans for the existing clientele with animal operations and expired plans developed by UME nutrient management advisors; and
4. First come, first serve for any other farmer who must comply with the Water Quality Improvement Act.

## **Progress and Achievements (Source: 2010 Nutrient Management Annual Report, University of MD Extension)**

- 548 new nutrient management plans were written for 227 Maryland producers for more than 28,500 acres. 5,671 plans were updated for 1,460 clients for approximately 287,500 acres
- Plans for 21 Manure Transport Project clients were written, which allowed for the transport of manure to over 2,080 acres.
- The Phosphorus Site Index was performed for 388 clients on 2,331 fields.
- Nutrient management advisors performed 67 yield checks and calibrated 24 manure spreaders.
- The Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test was performed for 152 producers totaling over 20,700 acres. This resulted in an estimated reduction of over 280,800 pounds (or approximately 13.5 pounds per acre) of nitrogen applied to Maryland cornfields.

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